D

HIS MAJESTY'S

TWENTY FOURTH REGIMENT

OF FOOT

TEMPERANCE MONITOR.

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TWENTY FOURTH REGIMENT OF FOOT

TEMPERANCE MONITOR.

RESOLUTIONS.

1st.—That Intemperance is the fruitful source of crime, disease and poverty, and ought to be deprecated by every individual professing Christianity.

2nd.—That it is painful to observe the extent of Intemperance, from the use of ardent spirits, in this Regiment.

3rd.—That Intemperance has been diminished in other Corps by the formation of Temperance Societies, and that equal success might reasonably be expected to attend the adoption of similar measures in the 24th Regiment.

4th.—That a few of the friends of Temperance do form themselves into a Committee, and endeavour, by every means in their power, both by advice and example, to show, and if possible to convince, their fellow Soldiers of the dangerous and pernicious effects attendant upon the use of ardent spirits.

5th.—That the Committee do consist of *four* persons, whose duty it will be to collect all the information possible, relative to the great object of the Society.

6th.—That the Committee do prepare an Address to their fellow Soldiers, explaining their views, and adopt Regulations for their future guidance.

ADDRESS.

FELLOW SOLDIERS,—We appeal to your own observation of what is passing around you for the motives which have led us to this step, the sole object of which, is to endeavour to arrest the evils which result from the immoderate use of intoxicating and poisonous liquors.

We ask of you whether Intemperance has not more than maintained its ground? whether every effort for checking it has not proved insufficient?

How much time is lost, what contaminating company is kept, what riot, disorder, and moral and physical degradation are occasioned in consequence of an indulgence in this vice of Intemperance?

Have we not had sufficient examples to convince us of its pernicious effects? Non-Commissioned Officers reduced to the Ranks, and Privates brought to the "Halberts," or immured in a cold and comfortless cell—for what? Offences all originating in that one crime of *Drunkenness.*

Many of you who hear these truths, we doubt not, rise from your beds in the morning, resort to the *Canteen*, (or else where,) and there swallow, some *one*, others *two*, and many *three*, glasses of that *deadly poison*, which, (as some of you term it,) sets you up for the morning; again, about 12 o'clock, the *false* cravings of nature demand the draught should be renewed, another glass, or perhaps *two*, are taken, to prepare the stomach for dinner; and, in the evening it is renewed with as much vigour as the husbandman gathers in his harvest before the threatended storm: at length Tattoo closes the scene, and thus the "Habitual Drunkard" ends his day.

We remember a man in Limerick, and so do many of you whom we now address, who was smothered in his bed while under the influence of liquor.

We also recollect another unfortunate being in the same place, who committed suicide, (by shooting himself,) while labouring under the horrors of *Drunkenness.*

There was also another case very similar in Dublin, where a man was choaked while in a state of intoxication.

Another case of a like nature occurred in this Barrack, of a man having been suffocated in his bed from smoaking—the bedding caught fire, and the unfortunate man was hurried into eternity; he, no doubt, was in a state of inebriation at the time.

Two other awful cases of a similar description recently occurred in the 79th Regiment, at York, Upper-Canada, from Drunkenness:—One man had the misfortune to get 'tipsey,' and in returning to Barracks lost his way; he however crawled into a limekiln, and when found the following morning, was so much frozen that it was considered necessary to amputate one of his legs;—the other went to bed drunk, and in the morning was found, to the no small surprise of his comrades, suffocated.

These and many other cases of frequent occurrence might be mentioned, all which tend to prove the dreadful consequences of Intemperance.

We beg of you most earnestly to consider to what a pitch Drunkenness has arrived, and what may be its results, if no further means are used, no other efforts made, to avert the growing evil.

The awful, but just sentence, awarded by a General Court Martial last year, on a Private of the 32nd Regiment, and a recent Coroner's Inquest in the Twenty Fourth, are authentic records of the victims of Intemperance,—victims that were imperceptibly led on from one excess to another, till at length its effects, in the former case, have been, open defiance of the Laws of God and Man; and in the latter, it is to be feared, everlasting misery.

The horrors of a Drunkard's death beggars description. Need we point to yonder grave, just closed over the remains of one who went from the cup of excess to almost instant death?—You all know it.

Should any of you who hear these truths live in the manner we have endeavored to describe, we think you will join us, when we say, it is high time to discontinue such a practice, which, if persevered in, must sooner or later, bring you to an untimely end.

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Let us now, one and all, with one consent, cease to do evil, and learn to do well,—let Intemperate habits be discontinued, and then, instead of having many Drunkards in our Corps, we shall be found a Regiment of sober, efficient and well conducted Soldiers. Conceiving that there is no better mode of obtaining these desirable ends, than the one which is about to be submitted to your consideration, the Committee beg to call your most serious attention to the expediency of forming amongst ourselves a Temperance Society.

RESOLVED 1ST.—That it is expedient to form a Temperance Society in this Regiment.

2ND.—That the following be adopted as the Constitution of the Society :—

PREAMBLE.

We, the Committee, considering Intemperance one of the most deadly curses inflicted upon the human race, menacing and threatening to undermine the Discipline and Subordination of the Regiment; and being fully assured that the common and falsely styled Temperate drinking, is the source and fountain-head from which all the streams of Intemperance flow, and wishing to co-operate in the exertions making by our Commanding Officer for the suppression of the evil, by a corresponding effort on our part, do therefore adopt the following Regulations :—

REGULATIONS.

1st.—That this Society be denominated the TEMPERANCE SOCIETY OF HIS MAJESTY'S 24TH REGIMENT OF FOOT.

2nd.—That the Officers of this Society be elected annually, and shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, who will act as a Committee of Managers.

3rd.—That a Monthly Meeting of the Committee be held, for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Society.

4th.—That in order to defray the expenses incurred in obtaining Printing, and diffusing information on the subject of Intemperance,

a sum not less than *two pence* per month be subscribed by each Member.

5th.—To prevent any misconstruction being put on the appropriation of the funds raised by contribution, the Committee wish it to be clearly understood, that they will be applied to no other purpose than that mentioned in Regulation No. 4.

6th.—That a Book be kept by the Treasurer, and produced at each Monthly Meeting, in which shall be entered all sums received and expended on account of the Society.

7th.—That every individual wishing to join the Society, be proposed by a Member of the Committee.

8th.—That no person be proposed and admitted at the same Meeting.

9th.—That subscribing to the following [illegible] on, be sufficient to constitute a Member; but that any viol[illegible] of, will lead to expulsion from the Society.

10th.—That any Member be at liberty to [illegible] n the Society, on making known his wish, in writing, to [illegible] tary; but it must be distinctly understood, than in so doing, they can have no claim on the Committee.

DECLARATION.

"We, whose names are hereunto affixed, (believing that Intemperance and its attendant evils are promoted by existing habits and opinions in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors, and that decisive measures for effecting a reformation are indispensable,) do voluntarily agree to abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits, except (when recommended by the Surgeon) for medical purposes; and although the moderate use of other liquors are not prohibited, yet, as the promotion of Temperance in every form is the specific design of the Society, it is to be clearly understood that excess in these, necessarily excludes from Membership."

COMMITTEE.

Sergeant Major JAMES COX,	President.
Color Sergeant WILLIAM O'BRIEN,	Vice President.
Sergeant WILLIAM MERRY,	Treasurer.
——— JOHN POTTS,	Secretary.

At a Meeting of the Committee held on the 23rd April, 1832, it was unanimously Resolved as follows .—

1st.—That fifty copies of the Address, &c. be printed for circulation.

2nd.—That the first Monthly Meeting of this Society be held on Monday, the 21st day of May next.

3rd.—That three Members of the Committee do constitute a Quorum.

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